

All of my cases have been treated in this simple way. In case No. 1, herewith reported, every symptom had vanished in four days after treatment as above. In case No. 2, after ten weeks of suffering the baby was absolutely well in one week. The recognition of scurvy is easy when only we realize that such a disease exists; the treatment is so simple that we feel almost ashamed to take the credit for the good it accomplishes; and the change we are able to effect at once in a disturbed and discouraged household is so magical that scurvy in infants becomes really the most fortunate disease the physician can ever hope to meet.

DISCUSSION.

Dr. Clarence Quinan stated that he had seen a few of these cases, and that they were certainly interesting. There was a possibility that they might be confused with a rather rare form of congenital syphilis, involving the epiphyses, and this should be looked out for. The etiologic factor was densely masked, though it seemed clearly located in the diet. No particular form of prepared food could be said to be responsible, for they all entered the problem, and in all cases many infants fed on them all did not have scurvy. One writer had noted that milk which had been cooked too long seemed to be responsible.

Dr. Blumer had seen a number of cases in consultation, the diagnosis in one case being cancerous growth of the gums. He was called in as pathologist to examine a specimen of the gum tissue and was able to make the proper diagnosis. He agreed that all prepared foods seemed to be responsible for some cases, but Mellin's food preponderated slightly in this respect.

Dr. Hunkin said that some years ago he reported the occurrence of this disease in three infants and in his opinion Mellin's food was responsible for it. A few days after the statement was published he was threatened with jail if he did not retract; but he had nothing further to say. Many infants were seen in the clinic of the University Medical Department in which a differential diagnosis between scurvy and rickets could not be made with absolute certainty. The condition seemed to be quite as much of the nature of one disease as of the other. Proper regulation of the diet in all these cases resulted in rapid improvement and cure.

Dr. Cheney said that the investigations of the American Pediatric Society, in which data relating to 345 cases were carefully collected and studied, threw but little light on the factor of causation, except to show that diet was the cause, and change of diet the cure. While proprietary foods seemed to be largely responsible, they could not be exclusively convicted, for an occasional instance occurs where the disease develops even when the infant is fed at the breast. It is not food alone, but some other thing in connection with the food, that produces the disease.

MEXICO DESIRES PURE FOOD AND DRUGS.

The following circular has recently been received from Mexico by the Chamber of Commerce of San Francisco, and is of interest as showing that Mexico does not intend to be the last in the procession of nations when the march is toward the goal of pure and wholesome drugs, medicines and foodstuffs:

Mexico, March 15, 1904.—Seal of the Department of Foreign Affairs of Mexico. Department of Chancery, Circular No. 7. International Chancery Control. The Secretary of the Interior has entered into a contract with the "International Chemical Control of Mexico, Ltd." authorizing that company to guarantee to the public the purity and good quality of merchandise and products consumed by the commerce, and to protect manufacturers of good faith against usurpations, falsifications and adulterations which are made of their trade marks or products.

This being a transcendental matter, inasmuch as it refers to the public health and also lends guarantees to international commerce, I recommend you to notify the manufacturers and merchants of your locality of this fact, thus giving the "International Chemical Control" all the help possible within the limit of your faculties.

MERISCAL, Rubric.

Hon. Consul-General of Mexico, San Francisco.

ADDENDUM.

The following addition to the bibliography of Dr. Ellis's address was received too late for publication in the last issue of the JOURNAL:

Vital Statistics, by Cressy L. Wilbur.

PURE FOOD LAW.

By M. E. JAFFA, University of California, Berkeley.

AMONG the important bills introduced in Congress during the present session, that by Congressman Hepburn, relating to the proper labeling of foods, stands out very prominently. Its advantages are so many and its effects so far-reaching that it is hardly possible in a short article to fully discuss and bring out the merits of the bill.

The measure, in brief, provides for the prevention of adulteration, misbranding and imitation of foods and food materials, and for regulating interstate traffic therein. When we remember that fully 75 per cent of the fraud and deception practiced on the public with reference to foods, arises from mislabeling in some form or other, we can better appreciate the efforts of Representative Hepburn, which should have the support and coöperation of all intelligent citizens. Until the people themselves really desire and demand pure food, the government alone can do comparatively little. Laws may be enacted, but they will not be productive of much good unless there is adequate provision made for their enforcement. That this is true is very forcibly illustrated by the exercise of the fertilizer control laws in so many of our states. In every case a laboratory is equipped and maintained for the carrying out of the provisions of the law, and, in addition, bulletins are published periodically containing the results of work done, and in which are printed the names of the transgressors, in connection with the analyses of fertilizers which are found to be below guarantee. It is very much to be regretted that the same cannot be said with reference to the control of food adulteration.

It would appear, from a resume of the different laws in force in the United States on the general subject of adulteration, that the first care is given to the soil for the purpose of protecting *its* food from fraud. Much less work is devoted to the prevention of deception in the foods for farm animals, while in a few instances only do we find any vigorous enforcement of laws for the inspection of human foods. Indeed, so little general attention is paid to the matter that one writer on the subject defines man as an animal "that adulterates and sometimes poisons his own food and drink." There are, in the main, two methods of adulteration employed; the one harmful and sometimes poisonous to the human system, and the other the deceptive and fraudulent, but not generally injurious to the health of the consumer.

In those States where enforcement of pure food laws is carried on, most of the work is devoted to the detection of the harmful and injurious preservatives, while the second method, just mentioned, has been investigated but to a very limited extent, and there are even certain frauds which do not come within the pale of laws now exercised.

The first method referred to above does not require any extended discussion, because all will agree that no food should be manufactured or sold which contains harmful or injurious ingredients. It would seem that, in the light of our present knowledge, it would be far safer to prohibit the use of preservatives in foods or food materials. If, later on, science can show, as some claim it will, that the small addition of certain preservatives are harmless, then the laws can be modified accordingly. Still it must not be forgotten that the results of experiments made on healthy subjects cannot be expected to be applied to the invalid and convalescent or dyspeptic, for whom many of the foods now containing preservatives are prescribed or recommended.

With the second method, the deceptive and fraudulent, etc., the case is very different. No one should